AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (currently amended): A [[The]] system for interconnecting Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop devices of claim 1, comprising:

a plurality of Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop ports each including port logic;

a route determination apparatus; and

a crossbar switch adapted to connect the Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop ports based on the receipt of certain Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop primitives;

wherein the LIP a Loop Initialization Primitive Sequence (LIP) received on a first port is selectively propagated to one or more of the ports based off of a LIP isolation table.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The system for interconnecting Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop devices of claim 2 wherein the LIP isolation table includes a list of [[ALPA]] Arbitrated Loop Physical Address addresses.

Claim 4 (original): The system for interconnecting Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop devices of claim 2 wherein the LIP isolation table includes specific LIP zones.

Claim 5 (original): The system for interconnecting Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop devices of claim 2 wherein the LIP isolation table includes an indication whether a device can receive a LIP.

Claim 6 (original): The system for interconnecting Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop devices of claim 2 wherein the LIP isolation table includes an indication of whether a device can generate a LIP.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method for interconnecting Fibre Channel Loop Devices comprising the steps of:

providing a loop switch coupled to a plurality of Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop ports each including port logic,

determining a route based on route determination apparatus,

connecting between the Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop ports based in the receipt of certain Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop primitives,

whereupon when a <u>Loop Initialization Primitive (LIP)</u> is generated, determining if the LIP is blocked on certain ports based upon a predefined LIP blocking list.

Claim 8 (original): The system for interconnecting Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop devices of claim 2 wherein the LIP isolation table is in the route determination apparatus.